

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 952

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Ralph Cole of Elizabethton, former member of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague, William Ralph Cole, who ably served as a member of the House of Representatives during his long and distinguished career of public service; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary businessman and public servant, William Ralph Cole worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born on August 2, 1926, William Ralph Cole was the son of Brooks and Edith Hyder Cole; he attended Hampton Elementary School and Elizabethton High School and received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1948; and

WHEREAS, proud to answer the call to arms, William Ralph Cole was a member of this Nation's "Greatest Generation" and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, having volunteered in 1944; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, Mr. Cole served with acumen and alacrity for twenty years as the Sales Manager at Courtesy Motors Company and was an automobile dealer and owner of C & T Volkswagen-Subaru for eighteen years before taking his well deserved retirement in 1988; and

WHEREAS, a member of the 97th through the 102nd General Assemblies, Mr. Cole was first elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in November 1990 to represent the good people of Johnson and Carter Counties, which comprised House District 4, and won re-election in 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000 to serve a total of six terms; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the House of Representatives, Mr. Cole rendered sterling service as a member of the Finance Ways and Means Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Ethics Committee, and the Veteran's Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Ralph Cole was a longtime member of the Brownlow Scalf Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cole is survived by his beloved wife, Dolores Oaks Cole, and his three children, son Charles Brooks Cole, daughter Dolores Ann Cole, and daughter Carol Cole Scruggs and her husband, John P. Scruggs, as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews and many dear friends; and

WHEREAS, William Ralph Cole took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all, and his unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Representative Cole leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our former colleague, William Ralph Cole, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Cole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.